Micro-Series
#1 of 1

ARISTOCRATIC XTRATERRESTRIAL TIME-TRAVELING THIEVES™

A COMICS INTERVIEW PUBLICATION

$1.75

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"X-THIEVES" X-TRA!

No turtles! No rodents! No pachyderms! Just a couple of light-fingered, fun-loving star runners out for a good time! The **Aristocratic X-traterrestrial Time-Travelling Thieves ("X-Thieves"** from now on) is a new title with an interesting, if short (like Fred) past.

Artist **Mark Propst** and I were visiting publisher **David Anthony Kraft** one weekend this past March. Our get together was for the purpose of brainstorming on the **Southern Knights**. You may have heard of it -- and if you haven't, shame on you...it's not as if we haven't been around for awhile! And we did, indeed, discuss that book. But while waiting for **DAK** to break away from one of the many business calls that keep him glued to the phone, I passed time by flipping through some of Mark's art samples, little suspecting what was about to transpire that fateful Saturday afternoon.

The moment my gaze fell upon the drawing that's printed here on this page, I was stricken -- or, perhaps, smitten. I asked Mark who they were. Nobody in particular -- just something he drew to show his versatility, he told me. As a writer, there was no way I could leave them alone -- they cried out for some background. The little guy looked so neat, and Bianca was his perfect visual counterpart. Suddenly, I had it! They were high-class art thieves! Daring, ingenious, the kind of criminals that everyone secretly admires. Mark liked the concept, too, and we thought it would be neat to guest star them in the **Southern Knights.**

Enter **DAK.** We had just recently been groaning over the deluge of radioactive animals using Oriental fighting styles (specifically, the one Marvel is planning) and, in fun, I played off that idea, calling them the Old-Age Extraterrestrial Marsupial Thieves. That was the turning point. Dave added to the ideas Mark and I had hatched, suggested some changes and refinements -- and got so involved with co-creating the characters that he said it was fine to have them appear in the **Knights,** but they truly deserved their own book! Mark and I are no fools -- we immediately agreed that it sounded like a wonderful idea.

Ideas, scenes and schticks began coming to us, and as we started understanding the characters, we adjusted the title accordingly to fit. It all becomes a blur from that point on.

Who first came up with the various people chasing the **X-Thieves**, or who came up with the idea of the Fredmobile, doesn't really matter now -- what does is the book that's in your hands! Through the unique direct sales comics market, we already know that **X-Thieves** is an enormous success ... which means that we can assure you that the **X-Thieves** will appear again -- and quite soon!

But, instead of appearing as guests in the **Southern Knights,** we're going to pull a switch and have the #1 Super Team of the South guest star in the first issue of Fred & Bianca's very own series! That's right--look for the **X-Thieves** to appear in their own ongoing comic book...coming this Fall! (See back cover for full details.)

Thanks to all of you out there for making it possible -- and be sure to let us know what you think of this, their very first appearance ever.

Finally, special thanks to **Mark Stokes** for the helping hand he gave Mark on inking, and to **T.R. Davidson** for coming through on some truly impossible deadlines to get this book into your hands this summer!

See you next issue!

--Henry Vogel

WRITER / CREATOR
HENRY VOGEL

ARTIST / CREATOR
MARK PROPST

LETTERER
T.R. DAVIDSON

EDITOR / CREATOR
DAVID ANTHONY KRAFT

OY, VEY-- WHAT A RELIEF TO HAVE THESE! THE BLACKMAIL WAS RUINING ME! ARE YOU SURE THIS IS ALL THE COPIES?
I'M POSITIVE, MR. BAWOOWAUGH!
BIANCA--ONLY FOOLS ARE POSITIVE.
ARE YOU SURE?
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POSITIVE!

ARISTOCRATIC XTRATERRESTRIAL TIME-TRAVELING THIEVES™

ARISTOCRATIC X-TRATERRESTRIAL TIME-TRAVELING THIEVES Micro-Series, #1 of 1, August 1986.
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DON'T WORRY, WHEN YOU DEAL WITH F & B AQUISITIONS, SATISFACTION IS *GUARANTEED!*

AH--SO IF YOU *MISSED* SOME OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS YOU WILL *REFUND* MY MONEY?

NO.

BUT--?

BY THE WAY, THOSE ARE SOME PRETTY *KINKY* PICTURES--I'D *DESTROY* 'EM REAL SOON IF I WERE YOU!

UH, YES, WELL-- YOU HAVE MY UNDYING *THANKS* FOR--

NO *THANKS* ARE NEEDED--

-- JUST OUR *FEE!*

THANKS FOR *DEPOSITING* IT SO PROMPTLY.

EXCUSE US FOR NOT SEEING YOU OUT-- BUT WE MUST *DASH!*

QUITE ALL RIGHT, I *ASSURE* YOU! PLEASE GO ABOUT YOUR *BUSINESS*-- I'LL FIND MY OWN WAY OUT.

*IMAGINE THAT-- HONEST THIEVES! MY ASSOCIATES **WARNED** ME NOT TO USE THEM--*

*-- I SHALL HAVE TO **TELL** THEM HOW PROFESSIONALLY--*

WHAT?!

CIAO, BABE!

WHIZZ

TA TA!

ANOTHER JOB, YOU KNOW! BUSY, *BUSY!* BUT IT'S THE PRICE YOU *PAY* FOR SUCCESS!

YOU--YOU *THIEVES!* BRING THAT NECKLACE BACK-- IT'S BEEN IN MY FAMILY FOR *MILLENIA!* AND YOU *CLAIMED* YOU NEVER *STOLE* FROM CLIENTS!

*FROM FAR DOWN THE HALLWAY A MERRY VOICE **ECHOES** BACK, "CONTRACT'S **OVER**--YOU'RE NOT A CLIENT ANYMORE!"*

SO, WHAT'RE WE SUPPOSED TO *STEAL* FROM THIS EARTH PLACE, FRED?

SOME ART-- THE GUY THAT *HIRED* US CALLED IT "EARTH'S *GREATEST* TREASURE."

LOOK, FRED-- IT'S *FORD!*

300,000 KM/SECOND IT'S NOT JUST A GOOD IDEA S THE LAW!

COME ON-- STOP AND *PICK ME UP!*

AREN'T YOU GOING TO *STOP* FOR HIM?

NAH-- WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE *NEAR* BETELGEUSE.

AW-- THAT'S THE *FORTY-SECOND* SHIP TO IGNORE ME!

FORD MAY HAVE BEEN IGNORED BUT THE *SHIP'S SPEED* WASN'T!

!! VELOCITY EXCEEDS

BING! BING! BING!

HOT *KABOOKIES*-- JUST WHAT I NEEDED TO *SPICE UP* THE DAY-- A SPEEDER! WORKING THE RED SHIFT IS USUALLY *SO-O-O-O* BORING!

RED-5 TO BASE-- I'M IN *PURSUIT* OF A SPEEDER!

WE COPY, RED-5.

WHAT-- I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THIS *RAG* SAYS MY ACTION #1 IS WORTH? *TEN* LOUSY CREDITS!

THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU'VE GOT *TIME TRAVEL*-- EVERY-ONE *GOES BACK* AND GETS A COPY OR THREE! NOW, SOMETHING *REALLY RARE* LIKE EARLY SOUTHERN--

UH OH-- WE'VE GOT A *COP* ON OUR TAIL!

WOOP WOOP!

I'LL *LOSE* HIM, THOUGH! THIS CAR'S *BOUND* TO BE MORE MANEUVERABLE THAN HIS *LITTLE* CYCLE!

HEY-- YOU'RE REALLY PUTTING THE OL' FREDMOBILE THROUGH THE *PACES!*

BIANCA-- IF I'VE TOLD YOU *ONCE*, I'VE TOLD YOU A *THOUSAND* TIMES--

--DON'T CALL IT THE *FREDMOBILE!*

ACTUALLY, YOU'VE ONLY TOLD ME 812 TIMES.

DO YOU WANT TO GET OUT AND *WALK?*

THIS IS THE *POLICE!*

PULL OVER *IMMEDIATELY!*

PULL OVER?!

WHERE?!

IT IS A KIND OF *STUPID* THING TO SAY-- BUT YOU CAN'T EXPECT MUCH FROM A COP WHO *BROADCASTS* A SIREN OVER THE RADIO!

ALL RIGHT, BUDDY-- WHERE'S THE *SUPERNOVA?* NOW, STEP OUT OF YOUR *CAR*, PLEASE.

STEP OUT OF THE--? LOOK, *VACUUM-FOR-BRAINS--*

FRED, HIS SUGGESTION MAY NOT BE *THAT* BAD! MAYBE THE OFFICER WOULD BE MORE *UNDERSTANDING...*

...IF WE DIDN'T *HAVE* A CAR!

HEH HEH! *GOOD IDEA!*

*FRED PAUSES THOUGHTFULLY FOR A MOMENT, THEN HIS FINGERS **DANCE** ACROSS ROWS OF BUTTONS. WITH A SLIGHTLY MANIACAL CHORTLE, AND A CONSPIRATORIAL GIGGLE FROM BIANCA, HE **PRESSES** THE FINAL BUTTON!*

IN AN EERIE, VACUUM-INDUCED SILENCE...

*...THE FREDMOBILE BEGINS TO **CHANGE!***

*THE CAR'S SMALL FLAPS **UNFOLD...***

*...AND UNFOLD **AGAIN**--AND **AGAIN**--AND, IMPOSSIBLY, **AGAIN!***

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*THE CHASSIS TELESCOPES, **EXPANDS**, AND **TELESCOPES** SOME MORE!*

*STRANGE, LETHAL-LOOKING PROTRUSIONS **APPEAR** ALL OVER THE CAR'S SURFACE!*

AND SUDDENLY...

...THE FREDMOBILE IS NO MORE!

GULP! M-MY-- WHAT AN... INTERESTING DESIGN!

ISN'T IT, THOUGH!

NOW-- WHAT WERE YOU SAYING JUST A MOMENT AGO?

I THINK IT WAS SOMETHING ABOUT SUPERMOMS, FRED.

I'M SURE THIS WAS YOUR FIRST OFFENSE SO I'LL LET YOU OFF WITH A WARNING! BUT DON'T LET ME CATCH YOU DOING IT AGAIN-- please?

WOW-- I DIDN'T KNOW THE FREDMOBILE COULD BECOME A BATTLE CRUISER! YOU ONLY SHOWED ME SMALL STUFF-- LIKE THE MILLENIUM FALCON!

"WHAT ELSE HAVE YOU GOT PROGRAMMED INTO IT?"

CLICK!

"ALL SORTS OF NEAT STUFF, BIANCA."

"CAN IT DO VOLTRON?"

NAH-- VOLTRON IS SO GAUCHE! BESIDES--

HEH, HEH-- JUST A LITTLE JOKE-- POLICE HUMOR! SAY-- YOU DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING TO GIVE YOU A TICKET, DID YOU?!

--THIS CAR CAN BECOME THINGS THAT WOULD BLOW VOLTRON AWAY!

TIME TO LAY IN A COURSE FOR EARTH!

GET OUT THE RAND-McNALLY-- OKAY?

SECONDS LATER...

... THEN WE GET ON *INTERSTELLAR 85* AND STAY WITH IT FOR ABOUT THIRTY LIGHT YEARS BEFORE TAKING *EXIT SOL 3* TO EARTH.

GREAT! HAVE YOU GOT THE *WAY BACK MACHINE* SET FOR 1984?

YEP!

OKAY

TTHHEENN

LLLEEETTTSSS

DDDDOOOO

IIIIITTTTT!

WOW-- *COLORS!*

1984-- TO MEN ON EARTH IT IS **MORE** THAN JUST A NUMBER! IT HAS MUCH **DEEPER** IMPLICATIONS THAN THE MERE **PASSAGE** OF TIME-- IT STANDS FOR **TYRANNY** AND **EVIL** ON AN ENORMOUS SCALE! FRED AND BIANCA, OF COURSE, COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THAT--

WE'RE ENTERING EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!

-- THEY'RE JUST HERE TO DO A **JOB!**

HERE WE ARE, BIANCA: *NEW YORK CITY!* YOU WON'T FIND A MORE WRETCHED HIVE OF *SCUM* AND *VILLAINY* ON THIS PLANET!

SOUNDS LIKE *MY* KIND OF TOWN!

HOW'S THIS ALLEY *LOOK* TO YOU?

FILTHY!

I *MEANT* AS A PLACE TO *LAND* THE SHIP!

OH-- IN THAT CASE, IT'S FINE! BUT-- IF THE FREDMOBILE GETS DIRTY, DON'T EXPECT ME TO *WASH* IT!

FOR THE *813TH* TIME, DON'T *CALL* THE CAR THAT!

SO-- *WHAT NOW,* FREDDY BOY?

WE GET OUT AND WALK--

WALK--?!

NO WAY, BUDDY! I JUST *STOLE* THESE BOOTS, SO I'M NOT *WADING* THROUGH ALL THAT CRAP OUT THERE! AT *LEAST* GET ME TO A STREET FIRST!

THE CRAFT LANDS SOFTLY AMONGST THE **DEBRIS** AND **REFUSE**, UNNOTICED BY ALL EXCEPT A FEW MEMBERS OF THE CITY'S MORE **DOMINANT** SPECIES! THE RATS, HOWEVER, ONLY WONDER IDLY WHO DUMPED SOMETHING **CLEAN** IN THEIR ALLEY AND CONTINUE SCAVENGING...

"THE STREETS AREN'T ANY **BETTER**!" MUTTERS FRED, AS HIS FINGERS **SKIP** ACROSS THE SHIP'S KEYBOARD. AND...

VIOLA--INSTANT PRIMITIVE TRANSPORTATION! WE'LL FIT RIGHT IN!

GOOD--I'D **HATE** TO BE CONSPICUOUS!

LEAVING THE SMELL OF **BURNING** PSEUDO-RUBBER BEHIND THEM, THE CAR **SCREECHES** OUT OF THE ALLEY!

HEY-- THAT'S ONE THING YOU CAN **ALWAYS** COUNT ON FROM ME--A **LOW PROFILE!**

UH, RIGHT... DO YOU KNOW WHERE THIS **PARK AVENUE SOUTH** IS, BY THE WAY?

NO PROB!

IN A CITY WHERE DRIVING SKILL IS MEASURED IN THE **QUALITY AND QUANTITY** OF OBSCENITIES SHOUTED AT YOU, FRED DISCOVERS HE'S A **BORN** MANHATTAN MOTORIST! HE **SURPASSES** THE BEST! EVEN THE CABBIES ARE FORCED TO **ADMIRE** HIS STYLE!

FOURTEEN BLOCKS AND EIGHTY-NINE OBSCENITIES LATER...

YOU KNOW, THE CAR HAS A SET OF **BRAKES**, TOO! YOU COULD HAVE TRIED **USING** THEM ONCE OR TWICE!

HA--REAL DRIVERS **NEVER** USE BRAKES! NOW **MOVE** YOUR CUTE LITTLE ASS--

--WE'VE GOT A **HEIST** TO MAKE!

I MAY BE **CUTE**, BUT YOU'RE THE ONLY **LITTLE ASS** AROUND HERE!

WATCH IT! AND NO MORE SNIDE REMARKS-- WE'RE **WORKING** NOW!

THE DEXTEROUS DUO SLIPS QUICKLY INTO THE BUILDING.

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A MINUTE PASSES...

TWO...

THREE...

HEH, HEH! HAVEN'T HAD A JOB THIS **EASY** IN YEARS!

HEY-- AREN'T YOU TWO **COMIC BOOK CHARACTERS?**

YEP!

WAIT'LL I **TELL** THE KID!

BOY, I'LL BE GLAD TO TURN THIS **ISSUE** OVER TO THE LETTERER! IT WAS A REAL **BEAR** TO SCRIPT!

HEY!

SORRY, MISTER--BUT YOU KNOW HOW **HARD** IT IS TO BREAK **BAD HABITS!**

M-M-MUTIES! RIGHT HERE IN MANHATTAN! THAT MEANS ALL HELL'S GOING TO BREAK LOOSE!

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON THAT ISSUE FOR WEEKS! IT'S TRUE-- THOSE MUTIES ARE A MENACE TO SOCIETY!

EERRT

FIVE MINUTES LATER...

BUT JIM-- I'M TELLING THE TRUTH! A GIRL--

--WITH A LITTLE MUTANT TOOK IT -- I HEARD. LOOK, CHRIS, MAYBE YOU SHOULD TAKE A FEW DAYS OFF!

ARE WE GOING TO HEAD BACK NOW THAT THE JOB'S DONE?

BACK?

NO WAY! WE TRAVELLED THIS FAR, WE OUGHT TO TAKE IN SOME OF THE SIGHTS WHILE WE'RE HERE MAYBE WE CAN EVEN PICK UP A FEW TRINKETS, TOO!

WHY NOT? I'M FREE FOR THE NEXT THOUSAND YEARS OR SO!

WHERE TO FIRST?

TIMES SQUARE, M'GIRL! ONE OF THE CULTURAL CENTERS OF THE UNIVERSE!"

BUSES

@ PHON

MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY-- A PARKING SPACE!

NUDE--NAKED-- LIVE PEEP SHOW? WELL, I CAN SEE WHY YOU LIKE THIS PLACE SO MUCH! ANYBODY EVER TELL YOU YOUR MIND'S IN THE GUTTER?

OT TICKETS

LIVE NUD

ALL NU

AW-- YOU JUST DON'T APPRECIATE FINE ART WHEN YOU SEE IT. THIS PLACE IS--

HOT DAMN!

UH OH--DARE I ASK WHAT YOU'RE SO EXCITED ABOUT?

THAT MOVIE!

DEEP EVERYTHING

WE'RE TALKING CLASSIC HERE--TOPS IN ITS FIELD!

DEEP EVERYTHING? YEE HA.

COME ON--GIVE IT A CHANCE! BESIDES YOU MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING!

I DOUBT THAT!

EXCELLENT--THEY'LL BE IN THE MOVIE FOR QUITE A WHILE!

FINALLY, I CAN REPOSSESS THE CAR THAT LITTLE RUNT BOUGHT BUT HASN'T PAID FOR! HEY--MAYBE I CAN TOOL AROUND WITH IT BEFORE TAKING IT IN! GET MEA SLEEK BROAD, EVEN! YEAH...

HONESTY IS FICTION

HOWEVER, ONE HOUR LATER...

GEEZ--WHAT THE HELL KIND OF LOCK DID HE PUT ON HERE? NONE OF MY FANCY LOCKPICKS ARE WORKING ON IT! IF I DIDN'T KNOW BETTER I'D SAY IT WAS A MECHANICAL ONE--THE JUNK THEY MAKE ON THIS PODUNK PLANET!

AW-TO HELL WITH IT! LIKE I ALWAYS SAY--WHERE REASON FAILS--

HONESTY IS FICTION

--FORCE PREVAILS!

HA!--GOT IT!

SPLUNK!

POKE POKE POKE

YOU'RE GONNA GET IT, ALL RIGHT! WHAT THE HELL YOU DOING TO MY CAR?!

IT CAN'T BE! DON'T YOU KNOW A TARDIS 40 SPACE YACHT WHEN YOU SEE ONE?

NO--BUT I KNOW MY LOTUS WHEN I SEE IT!

SUDDENLY, ABOVE THE ROAR OF THE CITY, ANOTHER ROAR IS HEARD--

--A DEEPER, THROATIER ROAR!

LOOK--UP IN THE SKY! IT'S A BIRD! IT'S A PLANE!

IT'S A NEW SPEILBERG MOVIE!

DO YOU THINK WE'RE ON CAMERA?

YEAH--SO TRY TO LOOK SCARED!

TAKE A LEFT AT THE NEXT LIGHT...

NEW YORKERS ARE ACCUSTOMED TO STRANGE THINGS SHOWING UP IN THEIR CITY! FROM APES WITH OVER-ACTIVE PITUITARY GLANDS TO CALIFORNIANS--THEY THINK THEY'VE SEEN IT ALL!

WITH AN OMINOUS CLANG, THE SHIP OPENS!

DESPITE THEIR BEST EFFORTS, EVEN THE NEW YORKERS FEEL A THRILL OF EXCITEMENT AND ARE READY TO GIVE E.T. A QUARTER SO HE CAN PHONE HOME!

THE IDIOT-- HE'S DOUBLE PARKED!

YO--DIS IS DA POLICE! UH--PUT YER HANDS AGAINST DA WALL AND SPREAD YER LEGS!

POLICE WORK MADE EASY

FULLY HALF THE CROWD OBEYS WITH PRACTICED PRECISION.

UH--NAW, DAT'S NOT RIGHT...

AT THAT MOMENT...

A CLASSIC, HUH? I MIGHT LEARN SOMETHING, HUH? THOSE ACTORS--AND I USE THE TERM LOOSELY--WERE STRICTLY AMATEURS!

OH, YEAH? WELL, IF YOU'RE SO KNOWLEDGEABLE, HOW COME I HAVEN'T SEEN IT YET?

I'M WAITING FOR YOU TO GET GOOD ENOUGH TO DESERVE IT.'

SAY WHAT--?!

DERE DEY ARE! NOW WHAT'S DA BOOK SAY?

"FIRST--FIRE A WARNING SHOT INTO DA AIR."

FWOOSH

I GUESS DIS ROCKET LAUNCHER 'LL WORK AS GOOD AS ANYTHING.

POLICE WORK MADE EASY

THE MISSILE STREAKS INTO THE MURKY GRAY SKY. SUDDENLY, THE SMOG IS LIT LIKE A GARISH NEON SIGN--MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DISTINGUISH WHERE TIMES SQUARE ENDS AND THE CITY'S SKYLINE BEGINS!

BOOM

LOOK, BIANCA--THE SHINING LIGHT IN OUR LIVES OF DARKNESS HAS COME FOR US!

I WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT THAT BOY'S DIM BULB WOULD'VE BURNED OUT BY NOW!

YO, MEMBERS OF DA CRIMINAL ELEMENT! HALT! DIS IS DA POLICE!

POLICE WORK MADE EASY

WHAT SAY WE MAKE OURSELVES SCARCE?

THERE'S ONLY ONE OF ME, SO I'M SCARCE ALREADY--

HEY--ARE THEY FILMING RAMBO KILLS NEW YORK?

--BUT I THINK IT'D BE A GOOD IDEA IF WE GOT OUT OF HERE!

I BETTER CHECK DA BOOK LIKE MY *WIMPY BOSSES* WANT! BOY, *KNOCK OFF* A FEW INNOCENT BYSTANDERS... NOW, IT SAYS "IF DA SUSPECTS DO NOT HALT, USE *APPROPRIATE* FORCE TO APPREHEND THEM!"

POLICE BRUTALITY-- I'LL SUE!

AWRIGHT-- USE *FORCE!* NOW DAT'S ADVICE I *LIKE!*

NOW -- WHAT 'XACTLY IS *APPROPRIATE* FORCE?

AW, TO HELL WITH IT! DIS IS *CLOSE ENOUGH!*

DIE, CRIMINAL VERMIN!

GOODYEAR

YOU HEARD CORRECTLY, CONTROL-- *SHOT DOWN!*

KA-BOOM!!

QEEZ -- WHERE DOES *INTERPOL** GET THESE APES?

*INTERSTELLAR POLICE

BEATS ME, FRED -- EVEN IF *YOU* ≥AHEM≤ WON'T! STILL, HE'S GOT A *NICE BOD* AND I BET HE'S REAL GOOD AT *GROPING!*

ZIZZZ

WHIZZZ

I'M DA *DISEASE* AND YOU'RE DA *CURE* -- OR SOMETHIN' LIKE THAT!

ZIZZZ

COME ON, BIANCA --

--THE ONLY WAY HE'LL EVER MAKE THE *EARTH MOVE* --

BOOM!

--IS WITH AN *N-BOMB!*

BOOM!

BESIDES, I THOUGHT YOU LIKED *SHORT*, WONDERFULLY *WITTY*, DEVILISHLY *HANDSOME* GUYS -- *LIKE ME!*

NOW, FRED-- LOOK AT THE *MESS* YOU'VE GOTTEN YOURSELF INTO! IGNORING RULE #1 -- NEVER *EVER* THINK ABOUT SEX WHEN A BIG, FOUR-ARMED IDIOT IS *SHOOTING* AT YOU! MAYBE-- SINCE THAT LUMMOX FOLLOWS US *EVERYWHERE* WE GO-- I OUGHT TO *SWEAR OFF* THE STUFF!

BESIDES, IT'S ALL *BIANCA'S FAULT!* YEAH -- THAT'D TEACH HER NOT TO *BELITTLE* MY PROWESS! SHE CAN COME TO ME *BEGGING* ON HER KNEES AND I--

FRED!

YOU *RANG?*

WHAT WAS THAT YOU WERE SAYING ABOUT *BEGGING?*

UH -- *FORGET* THAT! "MAKE *LOVE*, NOT *WAR*" I ALWAYS SAY!

HOLY--! I HOPE MY INSURANCE *COVERS* ALIEN ATTACKS!

IT WILL IF YOU'VE GOT A PIECE OF THE *ASTEROID*-- THEY EVEN COVER *NOVAS!*

HUH--? JUST SHUT UP AND GET *OUTTA* MY WAY!

HOW'D THAT CLOWN TRACK 'EM HERE? THE COP AIN'T GOT ENOUGH *BRAINS* TO TRACK HIS OWN SHADOW!

AND HE SURE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT *SUBTLETY!* I BETTER MOVE MY SHIP BEFORE HE *BLOWS IT UP*, TOO!

HEY -- THAT WAS THE *REPO GUY* DUCKING INTO THAT ALLEY! HAVEN'T YOU *PAID* THEM YET?

I PUT A CHECK IN THE *MAIL* LAST WEEK!

WE HAVEN'T BEEN NEAR A *POST OFFICE* IN OVER A MONTH!

SO? SOMEONE WILL FIND THE *BOTTLE* EVENTUALLY AND SEND THE CHECK ALONG!

WITH A CLOUD OF *SMOG* AND A HEARTY HI-HO *FREDMOBILE*--

BIANCA--YOU *KNOW* I HATE THAT NAME! LOOK, YOU CAN CALL THE *CAR ANYTHING* YOU WANT AS--

GREAT--SO GET THE *FREDMOBILE* OUT OF HERE!

--LONG AS IT'S *NOT* THE FREDMOBILE!

WELL, THAT WAS *FUN*, FREDDY--ARE WE GOING *HOME* NOW?

HOME--? WE'VE HARDLY *BEGUN*, BIANCA--

--WE DON'T HAVE ANY *SOUVENIRS* YET!

YOU MEAN WE'RE GOING TO BE SEEING *MORE* OF THIS PLANET? YIPPY.

YEAH, BUT RELAX--THE REST OF EARTH IS *NOTHING* LIKE NEW YORK!

FINALLY, SOME *GOOD* NEWS!

DEY GOT *AWAY*! NO FAIR!

BUT I'LL *GETCHA* YET, PANSER--

PANZI FRIED--

UH--FRED AND BIANCA!

YER GONNA *GROO* DA DAY--NAW, DAT AIN'T *RIGHT*...

UH--ONE DAY YOU'LL--ER--YOU WON'T LIKE TO THINK 'BOUT THE DAY YOU *MET* ME!

NOBODY MAKES A *FOOL* OUTTA ME DAT DON'T *LIVE* TO TELL 'BOUT IT!

YA AIN'T NEVER GONNA BE OUTTA DA REACH OF DA *STRONG ARM* OF DA LAW--AND DAT'S ME!

WHILE, IN A NEARBY ALLEY...

C'MON, SHIP--*START* UP! I GOT PLACES TO GO!

HEY--THERE'S THE SUB I *LOST* LAST WEEK!

CHRIST--WHAT A *DUMP*! NEXT STOP I'M *JUMPING* SHIP!

MM =CHOMP= *SMACK*...WONDER WHAT THAT *GREEN JUNK* IS? VEGGIES ARE GREEN AND THEY'RE *GOOD* FOR YOU. SO IT'S PROBABLY *OKAY*, I GUESS.

HONESTY IS

HEY--SHIP!

BAM

I SAID *START*, DAMMIT!

THE ENGINE GROANS, SPUTTERS, COUGHS, SPUTTERS AGAIN, GRINDS ITS GEARS, AND LURCHES TO LIFE!

AND MY STUPID BROTHER SAYS I OUGHTA GET A NEW SHIP!

PUFF

PUFF

PUFF

SHEESH!

I'VE ONLY GOT 20 MORE PAYMENTS 'TIL THIS BABY'S MINE!

SECONDS LATER...

I GOT YOU NOW, SCUM!

FRED CUTS TO THE LEFT!

HE'S INTO THE OPEN FIELD!

IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOING ALL THE WAY!

NOT WITH ME-- AND DEFINITELY NOT IN THE BACK SEAT!

GET OUTTA MY WAY-- I'M ON POLICE BUSINESS!

BONK

UH, UH-- I SAW 'EM FIRST!

HIGH ABOVE THE SCENE, HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH ITSELF, ORBITS A HUGE GOVERNMENT SHIP. IT WAS DESIGNED TO CARRY A CREW OF 200, BUT, ON ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE, IT WAS DISCOVERED THE CON-TRACTORS CUT A FEW CORNERS-- LIKE IN THE LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS. NOT WILLING TO FURTHER RISK VALUABLE CITIZENS IN THE SHIP, THE GOVERNMENT TURNED IT OVER TO THE INTERSTELLAR REVENUE SERVICE. THEY, IN TURN, GAVE IT TO THIS BEING.

SPLASH!

EXCELLENT.

HE IS A BEING OF VAST INTELLECT-- CAPABLE OF CALCULATING TAXES IN 2563 MONETARY SYSTEMS--A DEFT LINGUIST WHO CAN CHARGE YOU WITH TAX CRIMES IN 3186 LANGUAGES. TAX COLLECTION IS HIS LIFE. HE REG-ULARLY MAKES THE "TEN MOST BORING BEINGS" LIST.

HE CONSIDERS IT A GREAT HONOR.

MY TASK WILL BE ALL THE SIMPLER WITH THOSE BUMBLING FOOLS NO LONGER PURSUING THEM.

VISIONS OF TAX PENALTIES DANCE IN HIS HEAD AS HE CONSIDERS THE CRIMES OF THOSE HE PURSUES. NOT THEIR MINOR CRIMES -- THEFT, TIME-MEDDLING AND THE LIKE. THEIR TRUE CRIME IS MUCH MORE SEVERE!

AS HE WALKS TO THE COMMAND CHAIR, HIS FEET SEEM TO **SLITHER** ACROSS THE FLOOR -- THE **LEATHERY RUSTLE** THE ONLY SOUND ECHOING THROUGHOUT THE VAST SHIP.

W-2 -- MONITOR THE SHIP. INFORM ME OF ITS PROGRESS.

YES, SIR.

1040 -- BE PREPARED TO PURSUE THE SHIP.

YES, SIR.

I SHALL BIDE MY TIME -- AWAIT THE PROPER MOMENT TO MAKE MY MOVE.

SOON, THEY WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE --

-- FOR THE MOST HEINOUS CRIME IMAGINABLE. A CRIME FOR WHICH NO PUNISHMENT IS TOO SEVERE. THE CRIME OF TAX EVASION.

SIR -- THE SHIP IS NOW RETROGRADING THROUGH THE TIME CONTINUUM.

THANK YOU, W-2. I AM GRANTING LEVEL THREE INFORMATION CLEARANCE TO 1040. ALLOW HIM TO ACCESS YOUR DATA, W-2.

1040 -- PREPARE TO DUPLICATE THEIR RETROGRESSION THROUGH TIME.

YES, SIR.

WHILE WE'RE STILL IN THE VICINITY OF EARTH, I'D LIKE TO *PICK UP* A FEW THINGS!

SET THE WAY BACK MACHINE FOR THE 15TH CENTURY.

YOUR *WISH* IS SOMETIMES MY *COMMAND*, O SHORT ONE!

WHAT "ON EARTH" DO YOU WANT HERE?

SOMETHING FOR THE FOYER -- SOME OF *LENNY V'S* WORK!

I'LL ONLY BE A MOMENT!

HUMPH! YOU NEVER DO THAT FOR ME!

ALLOW ME, MADAM!

MOTHER OF MERCY-- A DEMON!

BUT A POLITE ONE!

SORRY I CAN'T STAY AND CHAT, BUT THIS DEMON'S GOT BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!

SECONDS LATER...

NOW DON'T GO POSING FOR ANYONE ELSE, M.L.! I WANT THIS TO BE A RARE COLLECTOR'S ITEM!

LEONARDO'S PAINTING!

THIEF! A THIEF FROM HADES HAS STOLEN--

RELAX, MONA -- NONE OF THIS ACTUALLY HAPPENED!

THIS WAS ALL JUST A DREAM!

OH, YES -- A DREAM! PERHAPS A MESSAGE FROM GOD?

YES -- A MESSAGE! HE WISHES ME TO TURN DOWN BOTTICELLI'S REQUEST TO POSE FOR HIM!

ZOOM!

LATER -- ALTHOUGH ACTUALLY CENTURIES EARLIER...

FRED -- YOU'RE A FLAKE!

THERE'S NO WAY THAT THING WILL EVER FIT IN THE CAR!

YOU'RE EXAGGERATING, MY DEAR! HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU TO THINK BIG? I ALWAYS DO!

--IT'S JUST A MATTER OF FIGURING OUT HOW TO GET IT IN THE CAR...

WHY ME? WHAT DID I EVER DO TO GET STUCK WITH A METER-TALL TYRANT?

SPARE ME! YOU KNOW THAT ONCE IT'S IN THE DEN--

IF I ALWAYS THOUGHT BIG, I WOULDN'T BE STUCK HERE WITH YOU! DON'T WE HAVE ENOUGH STUFF YET? I MEAN, GETTING THAT ARMLESS WOMAN IN HERE WAS HARD ENOUGH -- BUT THIS!?!

DON'T BE SO NEGATIVE, BIANCA--

--YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP BRAGGING ABOUT IT!

ONCE IT'S IN THE *DEN*--? *RIIIGHT*...

WE CAN INSTALL A *WET BAR* UP BETWEEN THE FRONT LEGS!

AND RIG IT FOR *SOUND*-- HAVE IT ASK *RIDDLES!*

HEY, SLEEK BUNS--WHY DON'T YOU *BRING 'EM* UP HERE AND HELP ME *MEASURE* THIS *THING?*

MY MOTHER *WARNED* ME ABOUT SHORT, LAME-BRAINED, TYRANNICAL, THIEVING ALIENS WHO *THINK* WITH *THEIR*--

WHA--?

RESISTANCE IS FUTILE.

PANSAFREDICOPACOG--I AM AN AGENT OF THE I.R.S. I HAVE APPREHENDED YOUR ACCOMPLICE. CAPITULATE AND YOUR COLLEAGUE SHALL RECEIVE NO LASTING PHYSICAL IMPAIRMENT.

YOU KNOW, YOU'VE GOT *COLD HANDS!*

THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS WEAR *GLOVES!*

OH *GREAT*--HE'LL PROBABLY *BORE* US TO DEATH BEFORE WE CAN *ESCAPE!*

I'LL HAVE TO PLAY IT BY EAR--MAYBE HE'LL BE *MERCIFUL* AND KILL US RIGHT OFF!

FRED--IS BORING *CONTAGIOUS?*

COULDN'T BE--HE'S SO BORING HE WOULD'VE INFECTED *BILLIONS* BY NOW IF IT WERE!

FLATTERY WILL GAIN YOU NO ADVANTAGE.

HERE IS A LIST OF CHARGES -- AT AGE 4, SOLD FRUIT DRINKS TO FRIENDS. PROFIT--1.67 CREDITS. TAX PAID -- ZERO. FINE, PLUS ACCRUED PENALTIES --10,653.02 CREDITS. AT AGE 5--

FRED-- YOU SOLD *LEMONADE* AS A KID?

NAW-- *DAIQUIRIES!*

LOOK--JUST GIVE ME THE *TOTAL!*

VERY WELL. THE CURRENT TOTAL OF DELINQUENT TAXES, FINES, AND PENALTIES IS 23,704,803,404.86 CREDITS.

23 TRILLION?

IS THAT *ALL*--?

NO PROBLEM! IF I'D KNOWN IT WAS SUCH A *TRIPLING* AMOUNT I WOULD'VE *PAID* MUCH EARLIER! I'VE GOT THE *CASH* IN THE CAR!

YOU *WHAT*--? WHAT ARE YOU *DOING?!*

JUST GETTING THE MAN HIS *MONEY!*

YOU'D *BETTER* NOT BE RUNNING OUT ON ME YOU LITTLE--

W-2, 1040 -- HAVE YOUR SQUADS SURROUND THE CAR.

MISTER PANSAFREDICOPACOG-- DO NOT ATTEMPT TO DEPART WITH YOUR VEHICLE.

I'M LOOKING FOR THE MONEY! I THINK IT'S IN THE CHANGE BOX! *DON'T PANIC--*

--YOU'LL GET *YOURS!*

SUDDENLY, THE CAR ROARS TO LIFE!

I BELIEVE YOU ARE CONSIDERING ACTIONS THAT WOULD BE DISADVANTAGEOUS FOR YOUR PARTNER IN CRIME.

YEAH -- YOU *LISTEN* TO HIM! HE *KNOWS* WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT!

WAIT A MINUTE-- WHAT AM I *SAYING?!*

CLICK! CLICK! CLICK! WHIR

IN ANSWER, THE FRED-MOBILE BEGINS TO CLICK AND WHIR!

HM-- IT SEEMS EVENTS ARE TO MAKE AN UNANTICIPATED CHANGE OF COURSE.

DADDY--?

SEE, BIANCA--I *TOLD* YOU THE CAR COULD HOLD THE *SPHINX*!

NOW, YOU COLD-BLOODED *CIVIL SERVANT*--IF YOU WANT *ME* TO STAY CIVIL, YOU'D BETTER GIVE ME SOME *SERVICE*! OTHERWISE, WHO KNOWS *WHAT* MIGHT HAPPEN?

YOU *TELL* HIM, FRED!

OF COURSE, IF IMMEDIATE PAYMENT WOULD PROVE INCONVENIENT- I AM IMPOWERED TO NEGOTIATE A PAYMENT PLAN.

NEGOTIATE? WHAT A *CAPITAL* IDEA!

I SEEM TO HAVE THE *UPPER HAND*--

--AND *FOOT*!

VERY WELL, YOUR COLLEAGUE MAY GO--

DAMN RIGHT, I'LL GO--BUT *NOT* BEFORE I DO *THIS*!

OUCH! *OUCH*! OH, PAIN--*MASSIVE PAIN*!

BIANCA--HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO *TELL* YOU--THOSE TAX GUYS *AIN'T* HUMAN!

MY, YOU GIRLS ALWAYS GET SO *WEAK-KNEED* IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS!

I'D *KILL* YOU FOR THAT CRACK, FRED- BUT THEN YOU WOULDN'T *SUFFER* ENOUGH!

UP, *UP* AND *AWAY*!

YOUR ORDERS, SIR?

I BELIEVE WE SHOULD REQUISITION ONE DOZEN NEW W-2'S AND 1040'S.

YES, SIR.

I ALSO BELIEVE I SHALL INCREMENT MR. COPACOG'S TOTALS DUE BY THE COST OF THE REPLACEMENT ROBOTS.

HEY, ARE WE--DARE I SAY IT--GOING *HOME*?!

YEAH--EARTH'S JUST TOO *QUIET* FOR MY TASTES!

UH, HUH... WELL, *WHATEVER* THE REASON, I'M GLAD--

STOP AND PREPARE TO BE BOARDED! THIS IS THE CONTINUITY INQUISITION!

BLAST--I *DIDN'T* EXPECT THE *CONTINUITY INQUISITION!*

NOBODY EXPECTS THE CONTINUITY INQUISITION!

FRED--*WHAT'S* THE CONTINUITY INQUISITION?

THEY'RE A LOT LIKE COPS--WHICH IS *BAD*--

HALT!

--AND A LOT MORE POWERFUL--WHICH IS *WORSE!*

PULL OVER!

THEY PATROL PLANETS LIKE *EARTH* TO PROTECT THEIR CONTINUITY FROM *TIME TRAVELLERS*.

YOU MEAN PEOPLE WHO *TAKE* PRECIOUS ART TREASURES AND THE LIKE?

YEAH--THE GREEDY, *UNCARING* SCUM WHO WOULD RISK A PLANET'S FUTURE FOR MERE *MONETARY* GAIN!

LIKE US.

PRECISELY!

SO, CAN YOU *LOSE* THOSE GUYS?

FIVE OR SIX, SURE--BUT *ALL* OF THEM? NOT A CHANCE!

WELL, I'VE GOT AN IDEA FOR *SLOWING* THEM DOWN!

YEAH--*HOW*?

YOU JUST KEEP ON *DRIVING*--

--AND LEAVE THE *REST* TO LI'L OL' ME!

GEE--I SURE HOPE THE DISPOSAL CHUTE IS BIG ENOUGH TO HANDLE EVERYTHING!

20-TON CAPACITY

BYE, BYE, M.L.!

BY THE CONTINUUM! THEY'VE JETTISONED THE MONA LISA!

COMMANDER BAGELS-- RETRIEVE IT!

AYE, AYE-- UH, SIR!

WITHIN MINUTES, C.I. SHIPS ARE SCATTERED HITHER AND YON IN THE FREDMOBILE'S WAKE, AS HUNDREDS OF YEARS' WORTH OF CONTINUITY FLOATS SLOWLY TOWARD EARTH AND A QUICK DEMISE UPON RE-ENTRY!

PICK UP THAT PAINTING NEXT, MISTER!

IT'S NOT A PAINTING, SIR--JUST A FULL SKETCH!

JUST PICK IT UP!

BACK ON BOARD THE FREDMOBILE...

=PHEW!= THIS IS THE LAST ONE!

GREAT JOB, BIANCA-- ONLY ONE SHIP--

THE ARTWORK! WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!

SAVED OUR ASSES-- NOW GET US OUT OF HERE!

YEAH-- RIGHT! I'LL--

OOPS!

--ALWAYS WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

THE CARDINAL RULE FOR DRIVING--

WITH ANY LUCK, I CAN STILL SLIP AWAY BEFORE THE TRACTOR BEAM--

BLAST! CAPTAIN KIRK ALWAYS HAD A TRICK UP HIS SLEEVE TO GET OUT OF MESSES LIKE THIS! BUT WHAT DO I HAVE UP MY SLEEVES? ARMS!

UH, FRED-- I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO FIND OUT, BUT -- WHAT IS THAT THING?

THE CONTINUITY INQUISITION'S MOTHER SHIP!

OKAY, BIANCA--AS SOON AS THE *FREDMOBILE* SETS--

NA--VICTORY! YOU CALLED IT *THE FREDMOBILE!*

HUH--? I WAS JUST--

UH, *UH*--YOU CAN'T WEASEL OUT OF IT! YOU--

LOOK--AS SOON AS THE CAR SETS DOWN, *GET OUT* AS FAST AS YOU CAN!

WHAT'S THE HURRY? WE'RE CAUGHT-- AND *CAUGHT* GOOD --THIS TIME!

MOVE! GO, GO, *GO!*

WELL, YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO *SHOVE* ME LIKE THAT! A *GENTLEMAN* WOULD HAVE--

SO WHAT IF I'M A *ROGUE* INSTEAD OF A GENTLEMAN? I HAD MY *REASONS!*

ROGUE--? I WAS THINKING MORE ALONG THE LINES OF *LITTLE BA*--

SUDDENLY...

CLICK!

WHIRRR

WHIRR

D-DID I JUST SEE THE *FREDMOBILE* TURN INTO THAT ?!?

YEP-- NOW THERE'S NO CAR FOR THEM TO *SEARCH!* "EARTH'S GREATEST TREASURE" IS *SAFE!*

SECONDS LATER, THE C.I. SHIPS LAND AND...

FOR YOUR UNCONSCIONABLE THREATS TO *CONTINUITY,* YOU MUST FACE THE *GRAND INQUISITOR!*

THE GRAND INQUISITOR--? THAT SOUNDS *SERIOUS!*

KNOW WHAT HIS *MOTTO* IS? WHEN IN DOUBT--*LOCK 'EM UP!*

SEVERAL APPREHENSIVE MINUTES LATER...

FRED-- WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? I DON'T WANT TO BE *LOCKED UP!*

FOLLOW MY LEAD AND WE MIGHT--JUST *MIGHT*-- GET OUT OF THIS!

FOLLOWING YOUR LEAD IS WHAT *GOT* ME HERE TO BEGIN WITH!

JUST *TRUST* ME!

WITH AN **OMINOUS** RUMBLE, THE DOORS PART! FRED AND BIANCA GAZE INTO A VAST CHAMBER!

TRUST YOU--? JUST GIVE ME ONE **REASON** WHY I SHOULD!

BECAUSE I'M **SHORT!**

WELL, THIS IS IT, BIANCA! WE'D BETTER NOT KEEP THE **GRAND INQUISITOR** WAITING -- DON'T WANT HIM ANY MORE **PREJUDICED** AGAINST US THAN HE ALREADY IS!

GUARDS -- LEAVE ME **ALONE** WITH THE PRISONERS!

BUT--

YOU **HEARD** ME!

AS SOON AS THE GUARDS HAVE LEFT...

HI, DAD! HOW'VE YOU AND **MOM** BEEN DOING?

"DAD"--?! THAT'S YOUR **FATHER,** FRED?!

AH--YOU NOTICED THE FAMILY **RESEMBLANCE!**

YEAH--HIS CHEEKS TURN PURPLE WHEN HE'S MAD, TOO!

WHAT AM I GOING TO **DO** WITH YOU, PANSAFREDICOPACOG?

WELL, IF I WERE A **BETTING** MAN--WHICH, ACTUALLY, I **AM**--I'D BET YOU WERE GOING TO LET US **GO!**

YOU ALWAYS WERE SO **SURE** OF YOURSELF! I'VE A GOOD MIND TO LOCK YOU UP--BUT THAT WOULD **EMBARRASS** THE FAMILY TOO MUCH. =SIGH= I'LL LET YOU GO **THIS** TIME--BUT DON'T **EVER** LET ME CATCH YOU **STEALING** AGAIN!

AT LEAST--NOT IN **MY** QUADRANT!

NO PROB, DAD--I'LL MAKE SURE I DON'T GET **CAUGHT** NEXT TIME!

LATER, BACK AT THE THIEVES' OFFICE, THEIR CLIENT COMES CALLING...

I TRUST YOU'RE SATISFIED?

OH, **YES!** FINALLY--AFTER 1000 YEARS--THE **EARTH'S GREATEST TREASURE** IS MINE, AGAIN!

HOW HE CAN CONSIDER THE ORIGINAL ART TO THE **DAZZLER GRAPHIC NOVEL** EARTH'S GREATEST TREASURE--

--IS **BEYOND** ME!

BEYOND...? **BEYONDER!** THAT **REMINDS** ME--I'VE GOT ANOTHER JOB FOR YOU!

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